

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing Preliminary Amendment prior to first examination of the Application.

In particular, in preparing a formal version of Fig. 4, it was necessary to carry the contents of the original Fig. 4 onto three separate pages. These pages are now labeled Figs. 4A - 4C.

Similarly, the content of original Figs. 5A - 5C is now contained on replacement formal Figs. 5A - 5D.

The references in the specification text at pages 5, 11, and 12 are thus being corrected to correspond to the formal figures.

No new matter is believed to be introduced by this Preliminary Amendment.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.

By 

David J. Thibodeau, Jr.

Registration No. 31,671

Telephone: (978) 341-0036

Facsimile: (978) 341-0136

Concord, MA 01742-9133

Dated: 4/16/04